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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT TACOMA

10 RONNIE LEE HICKS, II,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 CHERYL STRANGE, *et al.*,

14 Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:22-CV-284-TL-DWC

ORDER DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO
PROVIDE ADDRESS OF UNSERVED
DEFENDANT

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16 Plaintiff was granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”) on April 26, 2022, and
17 his Complaint was docketed on the same day. Dkts. 4, 5. On April 26, 2022, the Court directed
18 service of the Complaint on the named Defendants. Dkt. 7. The Clerk’s Office mailed the
19 Complaint and waiver of service forms to each Defendant. However, by Notice entered on May
20 24, 2022, Defendants informed the Court that they were unable to identify Defendant A.
21 Watanabe as a current State of Washington employee and, therefore, were unable to waive
22 service on behalf of this Defendant. Dkt. 13. Further, Defendants noted that attempts were made
23 to mail the waiver of service to Defendant A. Watanabe’s last known mailing address with no
24 response. *Id.* Subsequently, on June 28, 2022, the Court directed Defendants to file under seal the

1 last known address for Defendant A. Watanabe. Dkt. 15. Defendants filed the address under seal
2 on June 28, 2022 (*see* Dkt. 17 (sealed)), and the Court directed service on July 6, 2022 (Dkt. 18).
3 However, the mailing sent to Defendant A. Watanabe was returned to the Court marked
4 “Undeliverable/Return to Sender, Unable to Forward.” Dkt. 19.

5 While the Court has the duty to serve the summons and complaint, *see* 28 U.S.C. §
6 1915(d), an IFP plaintiff still bears the burden of providing accurate and sufficient information to
7 effect service. *See Walker v. Sumner*, 14 F.3d 1415 (9th Cir. 1994); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 4.
8 When an IFP plaintiff fails to provide the Court with accurate and sufficient information to effect
9 service of the summons and complaint, it is appropriate for the Court to *sua sponte* dismiss the
10 unserved defendant. *Walker*, 14 F.3d at 1421-22 (quoting *Puett v. Blanford*, 912 F.2d 270, 275
11 (9th Cir. 1990), *abrogated on other grounds by Sandin v. Connor*, 515 U.S. 472 (1995)).

12 Plaintiff is directed to provide the complete address for Defendant A. Watanabe so the
13 Court can again attempt service by mail. This address must be provided to the Court on or before
14 December 30, 2022, or the Court will recommend dismissal of Defendant A. Watanabe from this
15 action for failure to prosecute.

16 Dated this 5th day of December, 2022.

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19 David W. Christel
20 United States Magistrate Judge
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